

REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF MANAGERS

OF THE

MAGDALEN SOCIETY,

FOR THE YEAR 1859.

PHILADELPHIA:

HENRY B. ASHMEAD, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,

SANSOM STREET ABOVE ELEVENTH.

1860.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT.

ALONZO POTTER, D.D.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

AMBROSE WHITE.

SECRETARY.

JOSHUA W. ASH, M.D.

TREASURER.

JOHN W. BIDDLE.

MANAGERS.

AMBROSE WHITE, 921 Arch Street.

MORDECAI L. DAWSON, N. E. corner Seventh and Walnut Streets.

ARTHUR G. COFFIN, 232 Walnut Street, and 1015 Clinton Street.

JAMES R. GREEVES, S. E. corner Seventeenth and Chestnut Sts.

CORNELIUS STEVENSON, 605 and 1108 Walnut Street.

ISAAC COLLINS, 32 West Penn Square, or Merrick Street.

J. FISHER LEAMING, 906 Walnut Street.

WILLIAM PURVES, 267 South Ninth Street.

WILLIAM BIDDLE, Office of Mine Hill Railroad Company, Franklin
Institute Building, Seventh below Market Street.

PHYSICIANS TO ASYLUM.

HENRY HARTSHORNE, M. D.

JAMES J. LEVICK, M. D.

REPORT.

IN presenting the Annual Report of our proceedings, we desire reverently to express our gratitude to our Heavenly Father for His continued care over this Institution; well knowing that, without His blessing, vain would prove all our labors for the reformation of the erring ones under our care; for, in accordance with Holy Writ, "Although Paul may plant and Apollos water, it is God that giveth the increase."

In the operations of the past year, we find nothing of an unusual character to notice.

At the commencement of the year, the number					
in the Asylum was	.	.	.	.	30
*Admitted since,	.	.	.	.	33
					—
Total,	.	.	.	.	63
					=

* In addition to the above admissions, there have been twenty-five received as probationers: the average cost of the inmates has been about \$2.00 per week each.

Discharged at their own request,	6
Discharged for insubordination,	7
Restored to parents and friends,	8
Entered respectable families,	6
Deceased,	1
Sent to the Almshouse for medical treatment, .	3
	<hr/>
Total,	31
	<hr/>

Remaining in the Asylum at this date, including
probationers, 32

The inmates continue to enjoy the advantage of a well-conducted school, and have improved in their learning; they have also been employed in household duties, and industriously engaged in sewing, making up linen, &c., by which they become qualified for future usefulness.

The whole establishment is still under the supervision of our excellent matron, Ann McDonald, who has been in the service of the Institution twenty-five years, and by her long experience and sound judgment has greatly contributed to its success, and relieved the managers from much anxiety. Her assistants, as well as the teacher, have faithfully aided her in the discharge of her duties. With the exception of one death by consumption, the family has been favored with general health, but few cases of sickness having occurred; and it is a remarkable fact worthy of record, and which is cause for gratitude, that of the numerous epidemics that have prevailed in our

city, since the establishment of the Asylum, none ever entered its doors. To Drs. H. Hartshorne and J. J. Levick, we return our thanks for their professional services during the past year.

The Treasurer's Annual Account has been examined, compared with his vouchers and found correct, and so certified, the balance due by the Society being \$227 88. From the state of this account, it will be seen that the income of the Society is not at this time sufficient to defray our annual expenses. The Managers feel that they have entrusted to their care an Institution of vital importance to the everlasting welfare of those who become inmates, and they must again appeal to their fellow-citizens for aid, to enable them to afford a shelter to those who desire to lead a new life.

We have to record the remembrance of our late valued friend, Catharine W. Morris, for a legacy of \$100 left by her, which has been received from the executors.

We doubt whether there is a charitable institution in this city, in which more pains are taken to impart to its inmates moral and religious instruction; and from their quiet and subdued manners, and serious countenances, we hope and believe that these efforts have not been in vain. In connection with these remarks, we desire to express our thanks to Thomas G. Allen and William Neill, for their weekly religious services.

To repeat the statements contained in former reports, pointing out the great evils in society which

tend to demoralize and debase so many of the female sex, would seem almost a work of supererogation. Yet a repetition of some of those most prominent, may, like water constantly dropping on a rock, finally awaken in the public mind a desire to make an attempt to abate or remove these causes.

As the population of our large cities becomes more and more dense, wealth increases, and with it luxury and extravagance abound. The enormous sums annually expended in the families of the wealthy often discourage their sons from marrying, on account of their inability to support similar establishments, and, as a consequence, great numbers lead licentious lives. This deplorable state of fashionable society has, of latter years, increased to such a degree as to alarm the heads of many families in Berlin and other European cities, where wealthy ladies, finding their sons becoming dissipated, have associated together to discourage and frown down such great extravagance in their dwellings and equipages. The vicious examples set by young men in the higher walks of life of libertine indulgence, is too much followed by those among the middle and lower classes. Intemperance, and the destructive influences attendant upon frequenting our theatres, circuses, ball-rooms, and low dancing-houses, are the fruitful causes of the ruin of many innocent girls. It is said that, in the census of 1850, the marshals returned the enormous number of over 20,000 women, in the city of New York, as living dissolute and unchaste lives. If this is correct, pos-

sibly one-half as many reside in this city. What an appalling condition of a society professing Christianity, even if but half of this estimate is true ! It is most lamentable. We would ask, is there no remedy for such a flood of iniquity existing in our midst, and corrupting our sons as they approach manhood ? Surely some means should be devised to abate it, if it cannot be eradicated ; but vain seem the efforts of man, without the powerful influence of the Holy Spirit. May we not hope, that among the multitudes who have, during the past year, been converted and brought effectually under Christian influences, many may have their minds deeply impressed with this wide-spread evil, and be led to propose and adopt some salutary change in the habits, the customs, and the very amusements of society, that will materially lessen the evil.

If those deluded daughters of folly, who have just entered on their career of vice, could be induced to visit the proper wards in the Almshouse Hospital, and stand around the death-beds of their frail sisters, witness their agonies, and listen to their deep regrets for having led such immoral lives, we think such a scene would awaken in them strong desires to abandon their vicious courses and induce them to throng our doors for admission. It is a well-known though a mournful fact, that most of those fallen ones are very short lived, and are seldom able to continue their evil courses more than four or five years, during which many endeavor, by the benumbing use

of opium or the intoxicating glass, to drown their sad reflections and stifle convictions: the habit of intemperance becomes confirmed, a fatal disease is contracted, and they are brutally driven from their polluted homes, friendless and forlorn, to end their days in misery.

It is somewhat discouraging to find how very few of this great multitude have accepted our oft-repeated and pressing invitations to enter the Asylum. We trust, however, the Society will persevere in this good work, and ever keep its doors open to admit these poor wanderers from the path of virtue; remembering the declaration of Holy Scripture, "That there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over *one* sinner that repenteth;" and also the promise, "That he which converteth a sinner from the error of his ways, shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."

We believe we are justified in the assertion, that not less than three hundred of those who have been our inmates, since the establishment of the Institution, have reformed and become respectable assistants in families, or have married well; and of the thirty who closed their earthly existence under our roof, we have the consoling reflection that most of them gave satisfactory evidence that their sins were forgiven through the atoning blood of their Saviour, Jesus Christ, and we trust that their purified spirits have been admitted into the Heavenly Kingdom, and have joined that innumerable multitude who surround the

Throne, and are singing the praises of God and the Lamb.

In conclusion, let us implore the Author of every good and perfect gift to prosper this Institution, and bless the future efforts of its managers in their endeavors to benefit the objects of their solicitude, remembering that the souls of all are precious in His sight.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Board of Managers.

AMBROSE WHITE, *Chairman.*

Attest: W. PURVES, *Secretary.*

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 14, 1860.

Form of a Bequest of Personal Estate.

I give and bequeath to the Magdalen Society of Philadelphia, and their successors, the sum of _____ dollars towards promoting the objects of said Society.

Form of a Bequest of Real Estate.

I give and devise to the Magdalen Society of Philadelphia, or their successors, all that (here describe the property), together with the appurtenances, to hold to the said Magdalen Society of Philadelphia, and their successors, forever, for them to dispose of and convey in any manner which will promote the objects of said Society.

A contribution of twenty dollars constitutes a life-membership.

Donations will be thankfully received by any of the Managers, or the Treasurer.

APPENDIX.

The following extracts from two letters, received from inmates of the Asylum, were read at the Annual Meeting. Believing they might prove interesting to the friends of the Institution, it was concluded to publish them.

TO THE MANAGERS OF THE MAGDALEN ASYLUM :

My Esteemed Friends,—Allow me to address these few lines to you, to acknowledge to you the gratefulness I feel towards you, and our dear Matron and her sister, for the kindness which has been bestowed upon me ; and also for the instructions which I have received during the few years of my residence in this family. Indeed, I feel grateful to my Heavenly Father, that He has so inclined the hearts of his people to erect so good a home for poor, erring females, where they again can be restored to the paths of virtue. The thought has often arisen in my mind, what would have become of me, had not God in his providence directed my feet to this delightful home, and surrounded me with Christian friends, who have taken a deep interest in my welfare. It is here that I was warned of the danger of neglecting my precious soul, and here that I was led to seek the Saviour ; and I assure you, that I never shall have cause to regret that I came to this place. It is

true, my friends, that we have many trials to undergo; and often when my heart is sad, and I look back and think of my home and friends, and feel as though they had forsaken me, this passage of Scripture comes in my mind, that when "Father and mother forsake thee, then the Lord will take thee up;" and all that I can do is to look to God and put my trust in Him, and He will provide for me, for He doeth all things well. My mind has been greatly influenced under the preaching of our faithful friend, Rev. Mr. Allen, who is so constant in his labors from week to week, and is so anxious for our soul's salvation. I shall ever cherish you in my memory, and I never can repay you for your kindness and protection. But God will reward you richly for all the good that you have done; and should I ever leave this place, and go out into the world again, I will always remember the good home that I found in the Magdalen Asylum; and most assuredly, if I ever meet with those poor, erring females, I will direct them to this delightful home.

Yours, respectfully,

A. R. E.

TO THE MANAGERS OF THE MAGDALEN ASYLUM:

My Respected Friends,—I embrace this opportunity of expressing my gratefulness to you, and also our dear matron, Miss McDonald, for the great benefits I have received, both temporal and spiritual, since I have become a member of this family. I have cause every day to thank my Heavenly Father, that, in His holy providence, He placed me here under the kind care of such faithful friends.

I rejoice that I can say, from a sincere and thankful heart, the labor which you have bestowed upon me has not been altogether in vain. I hope it has been blessed of God to the saving of my soul.

My esteemed friends, I feel that I can never repay the debt of gratitude which I owe you; but I hope my Heavenly Father will abundantly reward you for all the benefits which I have received from your hands, and give me grace and strength from on high to so live hereafter that my daily walk and conversation may prove my heart to be sincere. If I know my heart, it is my greatest desire to become dead to all sin, and awake to righteousness. This, I know, I cannot do of myself, for I am weak and sinful; but I put my trust in my Saviour, and His promises are, "They that put their trust in God, shall not want any good thing:" "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might, he gives strength:" and "the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin."

I also acknowledge the instructions which I have received from our teacher, Mrs. Garrett; and I feel under great obligation to her for the interest which she has taken in trying to do all in her power to instruct me.

Yours respectfully,

J. D.

Pennsylvania
State Library,

respects of
F. A. W.

